ISAR 36

Item 5(a) – Accounting Development Tool implementation experiences

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What is the ADT?

• A quantitative benchmark of a country’s position at a point in time and its progress

• A country-driven guided self-assessment for strengthening country's reporting infrastructure

• Guidance towards a consensus-based action plan conducive to capacity building activities

• Consensus based and field tested document

• Includes a questionnaire, benchmark references, statistic model, and guidance on how to work with the ADT
UNCTAD-ISAR assist countries to build strategies and identify priorities in their efforts towards high quality reporting based on international requirements, best practices, standards, codes.

**Accounting Development Tool**

ADT provides a comprehensive and holistic approach.
ADT Approach

- Stress the **comprehensive** nature of this challenge.

- Emphasize the need for **stakeholder cooperation** and coordination at all levels.

- Build on **existing good practices** and lessons learned.

- **Financial and non-financial** reporting.

- **International** cooperation and coordination.
The tool was implemented in almost 15 countries:
- Belarus (in progress), Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, China, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russian Federation, South Africa, Ukraine, Vietnam
ADT Update: the tool enhanced with regard to the ESG and SDG reporting

- Useful and meaningful ESG reporting is part of the overall national accounting and reporting infrastructure, and the SDGs seek to place sustainability at the heart of development strategies.

- In this light, UNCTAD revised ADT and integrated assessment of national capacity in enterprise sustainability and SDG reporting, with a view to providing guidance to Governments on how to develop enabling policies to collect reliable data on the private sector's contribution to the SDGs.
Revised ADT

- In 2017-2018 UNCTAD conducted a process of thorough revision of its ADT.

- The ADT was adapted to reflect the needs of the SDG agenda. This includes a stronger emphasis on ESG and SDG reporting.

- This process of revision was conducted against the backdrop of Development Account project 1819H Enabling policy frameworks for enterprise sustainability and SDG reporting in Africa and Latin America.

- UNCTAD’s revised ADT enables a comprehensive and integrated assessment and improvement of national capacity in enterprise sustainability and SDG reporting.
Shared feedback from beneficiary countries

- Strategic tool to undertake needs assessments, evaluate infrastructure gaps, benchmark against global best practices
- Proven effectiveness in helping countries identify, quantify and establish priorities
- Serves as an internal roadmap for reform, allowing stakeholders to facilitate coordination and cooperation
- Enables countries to draft reform plans to achieve high-quality reporting and strengthen the accounting and reporting infrastructure